

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A printing sleeve ~~of multi-layer type, which has~~ comprising a printing layer, a compressible layer, and a circumferential stiffening layer, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ stiffening layer ~~(6) is provided located~~ between the compressible layer ~~(5)~~ and printing layer ~~(7)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ including, on the a radially internal surface of the compressible layer ~~(5)~~, ~~the sleeve has film for, a removal~~ facilitating removal ~~(4)~~ layer.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The sleeve according to ~~either~~ Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ circumferential stiffening layer is a reinforcing layer ~~(6) arranged~~ on the compressible layer.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to ~~one of Claims 1-3~~ Claim 3, ~~characterized by the fact that in a thermoplastic or thermosetting polymer matrix, wherein the~~ reinforcing layer ~~(6)~~ has reinforcing elements in the form of one of fibers ~~or~~, wires, a knit ~~or~~, a fabric ~~or~~, and a screen in a matrix of a thermosetting or a thermoplastic polymer.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to Claim 4, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ reinforcing elements have a single directional arrangement and are oriented ~~roughly~~ generally circumferentially ~~at least in the majority.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to ~~either~~ Claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the matrix is present in the reinforcing layer in a proportion between 20-80 wt% of the~~ reinforcing layer, and the reinforcing elements are present ~~in a proportion between 80-20 wt% of this~~ the reinforcing layer.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to ~~one of Claims 4-6~~ Claim 4-6, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ reinforcing elements are ~~made~~ selected from the group consisting of carbon, glass, high modulus polyester, and aramide.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 3-7, characterized by the fact that wherein the reinforcing layer (6) has a thickness between 0.2-0.5 mm.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 3-8, characterized by the fact that wherein the reinforcing layer (6) has a Young's modulus in the circumferential direction between 400-100,000 MPa, and preferably between 1000-2000 MPa.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 4-9, characterized by the fact that wherein the matrix of the reinforcing layer (6) has a Young's modulus between 50-1000 MPa.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 4-10, characterized by wherein the fact that the reinforcing layer has an elongation at break breakage in the a circumferential direction of the reinforcing layer is greater than 1.2% and preferably between 2-4%.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 4-11, characterized by the fact that wherein the reinforcing layer has a Young's modulus in the a radial direction between 50-500 MPa.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 4-12, characterized by the fact that wherein the reinforcing layer has a Young's modulus in the a direction parallel to its an axis of the reinforcing layer greater than 100 MPa.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that compressible layer (5) is formed by a thermoplastic or thermosetting an elastomer base containing expanded microspheres or microspheres which are to be expanded and at least one expansion agent.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to Claim 14, characterized by wherein the fact that compressible layer (5) is uniform in the form of

includes one uniform layer or several superposed under-layers of different compressibility if applicable compressibilities.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 14 and 15, characterized by wherein the fact that compressible layer (5) is produced by one of coating, spraying or, and spray gunning after of the elastomer base is put in solution dissolved in a solvent.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 14 and 15, characterized by wherein the fact that compressible layer (5) is formed by an elastomer base in the form of is an endless layer of a rolled or extruded sheet, rolled over on itself or in a helicoidal strip in order to obtain an endless layer.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 14 and 15, characterized by wherein the fact that compressible layer (5) is a layer which is molded and calibrated in terms of thickness on a removal facilitating film (4).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims Claim 14 and 15, characterized by wherein the fact that compressible layer (5) is a layer which is molded and rectified after expansion.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-19 Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that removal facilitating layer (4) is formed by one of an elastomeric or and plastic polymer, such as an endless molded film or in the form of tube.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-19 Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that removal facilitating layer (4) is produced during the manufacturing of the sleeve in the manner by applying one of a gel coat or a and paint applied on the a peripheral surface of the tube after a removal facilitating agent has been applied to this peripheral surface.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-19 Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that removal facilitating layer (4) is in the form of a heat-shrinkable tube capable of heat shrinking.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-19~~
~~Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that~~ removal facilitating layer (4) ~~is formed by~~
~~a layer applied in the form of a powder by electrostatic~~ an electrostatically or thermal
~~projection~~ thermally projected layer of a powder.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-23~~
~~Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that~~ removal facilitating layer (4) ~~has a very~~
~~low degree of roughness in order~~ is sufficiently smooth to promote the operations of
slipping of the sleeve off and on the tube or a support sleeve.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-24~~
~~Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that~~ removal facilitating layer (4) has a
modulus of 5-800 MPa ~~and~~, a thickness of 0.02-0.1 mm, and a surface condition with an
Ra factor less than 0.5 microns.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A The printing sleeve according to one of Claims 1-25~~
~~Claim 2, characterized by wherein the fact that~~ removal facilitating layer (4) has a friction
coefficient on steel or on composite resin between 0.2-0.5 ~~and preferably in the vicinity of~~
~~0.3.~~

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A The printing sleeve according to one of Claims~~
~~Claim 1-26, characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the printing layer (7) has a thickness
less than 0.5 mm and preferably between 0.2-0.4 mm.